

Updating Florida's Floodplain Maps



Modernizing Flood Maps

Flood hazard maps, also known as Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), are important tools in the effort to protect lives and properties. While they indicate the risk for flooding, many of these maps nationwide are out of date. An aggressive, multi-year effort, called Flood Map Modernization, is now occurring that is updating the nation's flood hazard maps through a partnership between state and local governments and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). As a result, these flood hazard maps will represent a more up-to-date, easier-to-use, powerful and accessible digital tool for local flood risk assessment, floodplain management, land use and emergency planning.

Better technology, including more advanced geographic mapping and digital data collection, is being used to increase the reliability as well as the accessibility of floodplain maps. The process will include the creation of new topographic data, base imagery acquisition, flood studies and digital maps that can be shared, and quickly updated. The result: an improved and more current picture of the areas most likely to be impacted by flooding and a better foundation from which to make key decisions.

Updated Maps Help Us All Prepare

Most of us want to protect our property investment from flooding damages, but we need updated information to make informed decisions. Unfortunately, many of the maps used to determine the risk of flooding are more than 10 years old, and have become outdated due to physical changes in the floodplain caused by land use, development, erosion and natural forces. The likelihood of inland, riverine and coastal flooding in certain areas has therefore changed along with these factors. These changes can have an impact on individual properties' as well as a community's flood risk and, therefore, how communities and property owners prepare.



Who Benefits From Flood Map Modernization?

The Map Modernization project will benefit numerous groups of people in different ways:

- Community planners and local officials will gain a greater understanding of the flood hazards and risks that affect their community and will be able to use the data for managing floodplains and wetlands and making decisions about flood risks, land use, water resources, evacuation routes, and disaster recovery.
- Builders and developers will have access to more detailed information for making decisions on where to build and how construction can affect local flood hazard areas.
- Insurance agents, insurance companies, and lending institutions will have easy on-line access to updates and upcoming changes in order to serve their customers and community more efficiently.
- Home and business owners will have the ability to make better financial decisions about protecting their properties.

Find Out More

Your local government officials (counties and cities) should be your first contact to find out more about YOUR flood risk, floodplain management or flood insurance.

Useful Web Sites

www.sfwmd.gov/floodmaps
www.floodsmart.gov
www.fema.gov



FEMA



sfwmd.gov

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